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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Goggans introduces legislation creating child protection registry**

**ATLANTA-** Sen. Greg Goggans (R-Douglas) today introduced legislation creating "The Georgia Child, Family, and School Communications Protection Act," which will establish a registry for parents and schools to register children's e-mail addresses in order to protect them from inappropriate or adult content.

"I am very concerned that in this age of technology that it has become too easy for spammers and predators to bombard children with inappropriate adult content," said Senator Goggans. "My bill will create a registry where parents and schools can register children's emails in order to ensure that the content they receive is appropriate for their age."

Under Senate Bill 425, the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) will be directed to establish the Georgia Child, Family, and School Communications Protection Service, which will establish procedures to prevent the use or disclosure of protected contact points, such as an e-mail address or instant messenger ID. A parent, guardian or school who is responsible for a contact point to which a minor has access may register that contact point. A person or business will be prohibited from sending a registered child any message that advertises a product or contains content that a minor is prohibited from purchasing, viewing, possessing or otherwise receiving. A person violating this law

could be found guilty of a computer crime and a felony punishable by incarceration up to five years or a fine not to exceed \$200,000, or both.

“It is our duty to protect our children,” continued Sen. Goggans. “This bill has unanimous support in the Senate, with all 56 members signing onto the legislation. This bill will give parents a useful tool to better monitor the information their children receive over the internet.”

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*Sen. Greg Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District may be reached at [ggoggans@legis.state.ga.us](mailto:ggoggans@legis.state.ga.us) or 404.463.5263. He represents all or portions of Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Lanier, Pierce and Ware counties.*